



www.dcps.dc.gov

Have a question? Feel free to contact us at
(202) 719-6613 or ofpe.info@dc.gov

1200 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20002



/dcpublichools



@dcpublichools



@dcpublichools

GRADE **4**



“WE KNOW THAT EVERY SINGLE PARENT CARES DEEPLY ABOUT THEIR CHILD’S ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT. THAT’S WHY WE ARE WORKING MORE CLOSELY WITH FAMILIES, BECAUSE WE KNOW THEIR INVOLVEMENT IS CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR CHILDREN, AND OUR SCHOOLS.”

- CHANCELLOR KAYA HENDERSON

How to Use the Parent Curriculum Guide:

This guide gives you the tools you need to support your child at home. In this booklet, you’ll find strategies based on the DCPS curriculum to help your child meet his or her learning goals. You’ll have a better understanding of what your child is learning in school and how you can further learning at home.

In addition, this guide provides specific strategies to implement at home for our Cornerstone assignments. Cornerstone assignments are high-quality, in-depth activities offered across the district that all DC Public Schools students will participate in during each unit of study. We have provided you with four sample Cornerstone assignments that your child may experience along with tips and suggestions on ways to support them at home.

For more information on Cornerstones visit bit.ly/DCPSCornerstonesVid.

What You Can Do:

You play a very important role in your child’s academic performance. Here are some things you can do to support learning at home:

- ▶ Let your child know that education is the foundation for success.
- ▶ Know what your child is expected to learn in the 4th grade.
- ▶ Help your child set high short-term and long-term academic goals.
- ▶ Provide a designated time and location to complete homework.
- ▶ Talk to your child about what is happening in school and constantly monitor progress.
- ▶ Advocate for your child.
- ▶ Share your child’s strengths with your child’s teacher.

Questions to Ask Your Child’s Teacher:

When speaking with your child’s teacher about academic progress, here are a few questions you may want to consider asking:

- ▶ What are the learning goals? Can you show me examples of student work that meets the learning goals?
- ▶ May I see an example of my child’s work? How does it or doesn’t it meet these learning goals?
- ▶ Is my child at or above grade level, what extra support is available? What can I do at home?
- ▶ What classroom routines do you have that should also be used at home?
- ▶ What kinds of questions could I ask my child on a daily basis about your class?

Talking to Your Child:

Good conversations help our children see that we are interested in their lives. Here are a few conversation starters you may want to consider asking:

- ▶ Tell me about the best part of your day.
- ▶ What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
- ▶ Can you show me something you learned today?
- ▶ What books are you reading in school? Describe your favorite character? Why do you like that character?
- ▶ What do you think you should do more of at school? What do you think you should do less of? Why?

WHAT MY FOURTH GRADER IS LEARNING



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



MATH



SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES



**AUGUST–
OCTOBER**



Students will learn to analyze characters while reading about the legends of medieval times and heroes from this period. Specifically, students will analyze the treatment of heroes from medieval legends to determine whether or not they should be revered.



Students will learn to read, write, compare, and round multi-digit whole numbers, as well as work with multi-step word problems incorporating larger, multi-digit numbers.



Students will learn about American Indian culture and customs prior to European Exploration and North American exploration.



Students will explore the changes of Earth and how wind, water, and weathering affect rocks and the evolution of Earth's physical landscape.



**OCTOBER–
DECEMBER**



Students will learn to gather information from multiple resources, build note-taking skills, and compile sources by reading about Pre-Columbian America, exploration, and the early settlements of the U.S. to explain how European arrival changed America.



Students will learn about factors, number multiples, and fractions that are equivalent, and then compare fractions with different numerators and denominators.



Students will learn about the formation of the 13 colonies, eastern American colonization, and the individuals and groups of people who contributed.



**DECEMBER–
FEBRUARY**



Students will learn about how perspective and point of view affect the way a story is told while reading about the American Revolution and American Independence.



Students will learn to add, subtract, and multiply fractions.



Students will learn about the early American settlers to examine the American Revolutionary period, with a focus on 1763 - 1783.



**FEBRUARY–
APRIL**



Students will learn how the main idea is supported by specific details in a text while reading about Earth, the sun, the moon, stars, and other planets.



Students will learn how decimals and fractions relate to one another, to compare decimals, and to solve word problems involving decimals.



Students will learn about the relationship between the humans and our habitats, how humans help and hurt the earth, and how changes in the Earth impact human life.



Students will learn about the political, economic, and social ramifications of the American Revolution which led to the formation of the U.S. Constitution.



**APRIL–
JUNE**



Students will learn to use different sources to identify how geography, life experience, and heritage impact a person's writing while reading about how these differences shape people's beliefs.



Students will learn to draw lines, line segments, rays, angles, parallel lines and lines of symmetry as well as measure angles.



Students will learn how sound travels through waves and explore living systems to see how plants and animals function.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CORNERSTONE

In this Cornerstone, students study heroic literature and what it means to be a hero. Students will demonstrate content knowledge, critical thinking, speaking and listening skills in a group discussion about heroism.

How You Can Help Your Child:

- ▶ Read *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan with your child. As you read together, ask questions such as “What makes Percy Jackson a hero?” or visit bit.ly/DCPSPercy to find relevant questions and answers to ask your child.
- ▶ When your child responds to your questions, ask a follow-up question like “Why?” This will help him or her support his/her opinion with reasons and facts.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CORNERSTONE

In this Cornerstone, students use their knowledge about early America to create an interactive display that explores the daily life of one group of early Americans (a Native American tribe or early settlers) using writing, visuals, multimedia, etc.

How You Can Help Your Child:

- ▶ Give your child an opportunity to obtain background knowledge of early Native Americans by visiting the library to check out the following books:
 - *Before Columbus: The Americas of 1491* by Charles Mann, focuses on what the Americas were like before European contact.
 - *Native American Tools and Weapons* by Rob Staeger, discusses Native American tools and weapons regionally, highlighting different uses, from ceremonial to cooking.
 - *Children of the Longhouse*, by Joseph Bruchac, is a well-researched historical fiction novel about a young Mohawk boy living in the 1400s. This tale of bravery and adventure gives a glimpse into the life of a Mohawk boy.

Year Long Learning Tips:

- ▶ Allow your child to take regular study breaks. Students should break for 10 minutes after every 45 minutes of studying.
- ▶ When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers. When helping your child, ask guiding questions, such as “Where do you begin?”, “What do you need to find out?”, or “Can you show me in a drawing how you got the answer?”
- ▶ Play vocabulary games. Make a game out of broadening your child’s vocabulary. Choose five new words for your child to learn each week and see how often everyone in the family can use those words in everyday conversation. This will help improve your 4th grader’s vocabulary, reading comprehension, and speaking skills.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CORNERSTONE

In this Cornerstone, students learn about the major muscles and bones in their body and about different types of exercise. They will complete a one-week activity log and explain the health-related benefits, muscles, and bones involved in the different types of activities.

How You Can Help Your Child:

- ▶ Have family workout nights or play sports together. Add exercise to the daily routines to help ensure that their students are getting 60 minutes of exercise a day.



ART CORNERSTONE

In this Cornerstone, students will examine a series of complex images that may surprise or challenge their assumptions of people both similar and different from themselves. They will be asked to empathize with the subject of these images who face an obstacle or form of adversity that contributes to their individual or community development. Students will use their creativity and critical thinking skills to communicate an idea or opinion that relates to the theme of Becoming.

How You Can Help Your Child:

- ▶ Take a trip to the National Gallery of Art. Once there participate in the family tour, where you can discover a variety of multi-generational programs and resources that engage children and adults in active exploration of art. For more information on the tour visit <http://bit.ly/DCPSnga>.
- ▶ Annotation materials as well as copies of the complex images/contextual images being discussed during Close Viewing may be sent home with students, in addition to a list of essential questions, video links, and any artwork that is created as a result of the lesson, for viewing and further discussion with the family. Resources to be discussed can be found below.
 - Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike bit.ly/DCPSSanStrike
 - Greensboro Sit-Ins bit.ly/DCPSSitIn
 - Freddie Gray Protest Video bit.ly/DCPSFreddie

Year Long Learning Tips:

- ▶ Have your child read each problem out loud slowly and carefully, so he or she can hear the problem and think about what is being asked. This will help your child break down the problem and come up with problem-solving strategies.
- ▶ Encourage your child to write. Give them a journal or diary where they can write about their thoughts or their favorite person, place or thing.
- ▶ Continue talk with your child about the books they read. Help your child continue to build understanding when they read by modeling the thinking process. Consider saying “I predict... what do you predict will happen next?” or “I wonder... what do you wonder?” or “When I read this, I pictured... what are you picturing?”

ACTIVITIES TO PRACTICE WITH MY FOURTH GRADER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Read together everyday for 20 minutes.

AUGUST-
OCTOBER



For three nights, observe the night sky for 15 minutes to see the moon and star patterns.

Then, draw your own constellations and write a story about how they got their names.



Remove all 10's and face cards from a card deck, then pull four random cards to create a 3-digit number where the order corresponds to the place holder. Multiply your 3-digit number by the 4th card!



Go on a Dinosaur Dig with D.C.'s Dinosaur Guy, Peter Kranz. Visit bit.ly/DCPSdino for more information.



Keep a journal recording how much time you spend reading each day! List your favorite characters from each story and identify a place in the story where the character shows a quality that you admire.



Visit the Museum of Natural History's Native Americans exhibit. Jot down questions you have during your visit to research at your local library afterward! Visit mnh.si.edu for more information.



OCTOBER -
DECEMBER



Use a computer with internet access to visit bit.ly/CompareFractions to pop balloons while comparing fraction size! How many balloons can you pop!?



Visit your local library to check-out three new books! Visit bit.ly/findmylibrary to find your local library branch.



Identify the original 13 colonies on a map. Imagine how history would change if only half of the original colonies had formed. Which colonies do you think would have formed together and why?



Visit your local library to find three different texts on American and European settlers. Review these text sources and take notes on what is similar or different about each source.



Visit the National Zoo! Record observations (like color, shape, and size) of your five favorite animals. Keep your observations as objective as possible. For example, "The lion is tan and strong."



DECEMBER -
FEBRUARY



Speed up your typing skills with the fun games and activities at bit.ly/TypingFun. Can you win all of the games?!



Visit the American History Museum's Gunboat, Philadelphia exhibit. Then draw your own picture of the battle that sank the Philadelphia. Visit americanhistory.si.edu for more information.



Paul Revere warned about the British coming on horseback. Write a warning message like Paul Revere's but for Facebook, a text message, Twitter or Instagram. How is this different?



Visit the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Pavilion, free of charge on Tuesdays. Visit mnh.si.edu for more information.



While cooking, look for fractions found in recipes. Discuss how much of an ingredient would be needed if you were to double or triple the recipe.



FEBRUARY -
APRIL



Visit the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Visit bit.ly/DCPSC Cherry.



Talk about a current event where people have either helped or hurt the environment. Discuss how the behavior will impact humans in the future.



Create a weekly family chore schedule by dividing all chores based upon the time each chore should take. Then make a daily chore list to determine the fraction of chores to be done each day.



Visit the National Archives to see the Bill of Rights! Discuss what was happening in both America and Great Britain to prompt the ideas found in this document.



Interview friends and family about their heroes. Reflect together how your heroes have inspired you or helped you achieve.



APRIL -
JUNE

Look for twenty angles in your neighborhood or at home. Measure each of them and order them from smallest to largest. Are they acute, right or obtuse?



Visit the Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens. Look for frogs on a pond tour, offered every weekend at 10 a.m. Visit nps.gov/keaq for more information.



Everybody has a story. What do you want yours to be when you are old? Tell your story as you hope it will be when you are an adult.



What are your summer plans? Brainstorm five activities you can do together to keep learning over the summer.



Make a telephone using plastic cups and string. Discuss how sound waves move through the string so the person on the other end can be heard.

